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have been made in the essentials, but it does give evidence, of what would be desired and expected, a wholesale, moderate, sane, conservative reform no so much of the essentials as of the non-essentials of criminal procedure, to the end always that exact and speedy justice may be done alike to prosecutor and accused

R. E. BUNKER.

THE ARGENTINE CIVIL CODE (Effective January 1, 1871). Together with Constitution and Law of Civil Registry. Translated by Frank L. Joannini, from the Original Spanish Texts as Officially Promulgated. Revision Committee: Phanor J. Eder, Robert J. Kerr, Joseph Wheless, Boston, U. S. A. Boston Book Company, 1917, pp. xxxii., 732

This volume is published under the auspices of the Comparative Law Bureau of the American Bar Association, in the Foreign Civil Code Series. The translator, who has already proved his capacity in several translations for the Bureau of Insular affairs, has wisely transliterated civil law terms instead of attempting to find common law translations for them, and has then put into an extensive index—more than one hundred papers—the necessary help for those unacquainted with civil law phraseology. The well written introduction by Mr. Eder gives a sketch of the history of Argentine law, the sources of the codes and the relations of the Civil Code to other parts of the law, together with a very good bibliography of Argentine law. This Argentine Code is a “one man code.” It was drawn up by Dr. Velez Sarsfield, one of the most distinguished of the Argentine jurists of his day, and “was enacted into law, without any discussion whatsoever, on September 29, 1869.” He used as the basis for his codification the Project of Civil Code for Brazil, by Freitas, and drew from this source more than fifteen hundred of the four thousand and eighty-five articles. The remaining articles were taken from various other codes and commentaries on Roman law, and include eleven hundred articles from the French Code and fifty-two from the Louisiana Civil Code. The classification is one based on rights rather than on rules of law, the first book being on persons and personal rights in family relations, the second on personal rights in civil actions, the third on real rights and the fourth on the transmission of rights in general. Whether this is more than a mere change in phraseology seems doubtful; at any rate, as being only a matter of classification, it is not very important. The translation is clear and in general free of the foreign idiom. The original avoids wherever possible the abstract definition of a legal institution but instead states concise premises on which the institution rests, thus avoiding the feature of our Louisiana Civil Code that has been so often criticised and giving due heed to the warning of Javolenus that *omnis definitio in jure civili periculosa est*. The translation is a timely and welcome addition to our legal apparatus for dealing with our great sister republic to the south in the many readjustments of world relations that are to come after the war.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.